

Next
STEPS

THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING



Welcome Home

CHRISTPOINT CHURCH

Christpoint Church

Sparta, TN Campus Smithville, TN Campus

13 Liberty Square
Sparta, TN 38583.

614 Murphy Avenue
Smithville, TN 37166

Student/Connect Center

240 Bockman Way
Sparta, TN 3858

“Real people, living real lives, serving a real God”

Sunday Services

8:00am

Traditional Service (Sparta Campus only)

9:15am

Progressive Service (Sparta Campus only)

11:00am

Progressive Service (Sparta and Smithville Campus)

Wednesday Services

5:45pm

Fellowship Meal

6:30pm

Adult FUEL, Kidspoint classes, SWAG (middle school youth),
240 Youth (high school youth at Student/Connect Center).

Church Office Hours

Monday-Friday

931-836-1762

WELCOME HOME!

Born Again! What Now?

Introduction

Congratulations! You have made the most important decision you have ever made or will ever make in the future - your decision to accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord of your life. The rippling effect of your decision will exceed your wildest dreams. Your family and friends, the people with whom you work, or the people at your school will be greatly influenced by the change that has taken place in your life.

From the moment you accept Jesus Christ as your savior, you begin to understand that God has a plan for your life. He will lead you and direct your life as you allow Him. *Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you. They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.* The Bible also tells you in *Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.*

Contrary to what Satan has told you, God wants to bless and prosper you. You are now His son or daughter, and He will always be there to encourage and help you in your development as a Christian. He has promised that He will go with you through this life and all eternity! The only one who may sever this binding covenant is you! *Matthew 28: 30 I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.*

The primary reason for this booklet is to help you in your infant walk with the Lord. You are a newborn in Christ. *1 Peter 2:2 ...as newborn babies.* God has placed people in position to help you grow into maturity. Among those God has called to minister or help you are pastors and teachers. *Ephesians 4:11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints.* For this reason I will attempt to give a little insight to assist you in your next few days, weeks, months, and maybe even longer as we walk this road of excitement with our lovely Lord!

Praise God! Your are saved!

What now?.....

Chapter 1

Yes! You Are Saved!

The first thing Satan will try to do is get you to doubt your “born again” experience, but you can know for sure that you have been redeemed. Your salvation is the reason Jesus Christ came into this world. *John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.* Obeying the word of God by first repenting of your sins (*Acts 3:19 Repent therefore and be covered that your sins may be blotted out.*) is merely forsaking sin, but it is also changing one’s attitude toward and love for sin and then accepting the gift of eternal life through the shed blood of Christ on the cross. This process is clearly defined *Romans 10: 9-10 That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in you heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart, one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

More good news! When you invited Jesus Christ to become your savior and lord of your life, a supernatural act happened. You were baptized by the Spirit of God into the family of God! Notice, *1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free — and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.* Yes, the spirit is the one that brings into the Body of Christ by the new birth. The Body is the element into one is baptized, and the Spirit does the baptizing of you, the candidate (the believer).

Praise God! You are now part of the Body of Christ. You heard the gospel, and you obeyed the word of God. Now reflect on what happened. *Romans 10:17 became a reality. So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

According to *2 Corinthians 5:17*, the old, sinful man is dead. A new life has begun. *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

Remember the new life has begun. The mind that once was filled with sin and sinful thoughts needs to be re-programmed with the thoughts of Godly things. The renewing of your mind takes place as you re-enter on the cleaned out hard drive of your mind — the things that are right, wholesome, Godly and true. Here is the way Paul

explains this action. *Philippians 4:8 And now, dear brothers and sisters, let me say one more thing as I close this letter. Fix your thoughts on what is true and honorable and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.* (NLT)

You are beginning a new life in Christ, and the devil will try to discourage you by trying to get you to think negatively, impurely, or just bad thoughts. You are in opposition to the devil. This means you are fighting against him and his evil forces. The mind is a battlefield of Satan and his forces.

This fact must be settled: *For I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day... 2 Timothy 1:12*
Never second-guess your salvation! You owed a debt you could not pay, and He paid a debt He did not owe. His blood has washed you clean! You are free from the bondage of sin and have been set free to sing His praises!

As you follow the Lord, a renewing of your mind will take place. Prayer, Bible reading, telling others of what Christ has done for you, and being faithful in church services will help to re-program your mind so you will have the mind of Christ. You will know you are saved because your desires are changing! You will want to do what pleases the Lord. Your love for the things of God will be greater than for the things of the world. As you learn more and more of God and His desires for you, the new life in Christ will be fresh and new every day.

Chapter 2

Local Assembly

Church will become a stabilizing force in your Christian walk. When you are born again, you were birthed into the Body of Christ, this is the universal church. However, you also need a local church (Body of Christ) in order to grow and develop in your newfound faith. In many cases, your church and the fellowship with other believers will be the glue that keeps you attached to God and the righteous living.

Some will tell you that you do not have to be in Church to live for the Lord. I have never seen a live plant continue to live after it was cut off (from) the vine and left to fate for its survival. In the house of God, you will receive a spiritual diet of healthy food and spiritual drink to help you grow and become stronger in the Lord. The fellowship of those in Church is so important. In fact, you'll be supported in your Christian walk, and you, in turn, can help support others at the same time.

I have noticed that first step in backsliding is usually the lack of, or the gradual decline, in Church attendance. (Remember, good and bad habits can be formed!) When someone suggests a substitute for church attendance, check their spiritual life. You will see a distance in their devotion to God. Do not allow the devil to pull you away from the very thing that brought you the Good News to begin with! A usual sequence that takes place occurs like this: irregular church attendance, going back and picking up bad habits, running with the wrong crowd, and the last thing is a **total disregard for God and your soul!**

The devil knows that in church you will be taught, encouraged, and begin to engage in evangelism. The devil hates to see anyone trying to convert other sinners. This is what happens when you are faithful in attendance and tithing. You are helping minister to others who are lost as well as gaining strength for yourself.

Our pledge to you at your church, Christpoint Church, is to allow you to help us become all we can for the glory of God. At the same time, we will help you become all you can be for the glory of God.

We at Christpoint Church believe this purpose for being: We are REAL people, living REAL lives, serving a REAL God... Welcome Home!

Chapter 3

Remain Focused on Jesus Christ

Understand that God made no two of us exactly the same. He made you and me individually. We are not copies of another. Here is the way David explains it in the Bible: *Psalm 139:14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.*

God knew you before you were born! He knew that we all would not see nor understand everything on the same level. God must love variety! Someone said, “He must love comedy, just look at some of His handiwork!” Well, I will not go there, but that brings us to something that will help you. You may be tempted to look at another Christian; or more than likely, some negative Christian will try to encourage you to look at someone else and notice their so-called flaws. They will plant a seed that goes something like this: “I don’t understand how they can do or be like they are and still be a Christian”. As I said, no two of us are exactly alike, and we may not correctly understand what is causing another to do or act a certain way. This is the prime reason you and I must let God be the judge and live our life the best we can for His glory.

Some things can not be negotiated. The essentials of the gospel must not be compromised — the Virgin Birth of Jesus, His sinless life, His vicarious death on the cross for our sins, His burial, resurrection, and ascension into Heaven, and His coming again. We must learn to be tolerant with others in the non-essentials (appearance, foods, types of entertainment, what we will do in Heaven, etc). I have seen people fall out with others and soon fall out with God over things that really don’t have any spiritual impact on one’s life! My purpose for writing these things to you is to assist you in **NOT BEING A VICTIM** of fallout!

Some good advice here is to keep your eyes centered upon the Lord and allow others the same opportunity.

Chapter 4

Stumbling

I have fallen! What can I do? I will never be successful in my walk with God! These are statements that have been made by multitudes and will be made over and over again as people just like you begin their Christian walk.

Yes, as a newborn you may fall, stumble, and get a few bruises, as a small child learning to walk will do the same thing, but does the child stop trying to walk? A thousand times NO! You have not failed until you stop trying. You must be determined to walk with the Lord.

“Will I make mistakes?” First establish this truth: It is not God’s will or plan that we sin, period. However, just because you are forgiven doesn’t mean you are perfect. We are God’s children and children do make mistakes; however, we should learn from those mistakes, errors, sins and use what we learn to make us a better Christian. Here is the way God’s love letter speaks to us: *1 John 2:1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.*

“If I sin, what can I do?” *1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* “[When] we confess our sin to God”, this means we acknowledge our error with a repentant heart, and God forgives us. This way our heart remains clean and pure in His sight. The wise man gave some insight to what happens when we repent and confess our sin to God. *He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy. (Proverbs 28:13)* As soon as you know you have messed up, right then is the time to get things right with the Lord. Anyone can try to reason why or blame someone else, but it takes a strong person to go ahead and “fess up”! Repent! **FIDO – (Forget It and Drive On!)**

“When I am tempted to sin, is it the same as committing the sin?” This is called “Devilish Deception”. Common sense should prevail. The answer is no! In the gospel of Luke chapter 4, verses 1 through 14, you will find Jesus Christ being tempted. You will also notice Jesus did not yield to the temptation of the devil. The word of God is so important to help us in times of temptation. One of the greatest helps in those times is to begin bringing your thoughts toward the Lord. In doing so, you will be better able to obey and do the right thing. Paul expressed it like this: *2 Corinthians 10: 5 Casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.* Take charge of your thoughts!

“I thought what when I received Christ as my savior and Lord that I would be free from problems, troubles, and temptations. It is not working that way for me...What is wrong?” The answer to your questions is not a one-liner. Again, the word of God will give you the help you need. There are those who do tell others that once they are saved, they will never has any problems, troubles, and so on; however, this is not consistent with the word of God. We will have obstacles, but the Lord promised that He would not allow anything to come our way that He would not make a way for our victory! Note this passage: *1 Corinthians 10:13. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.*

2 Corinthians 4: 8-9. We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed.

These expressions of sufferings also carry with them ultimate victories! (Hard pressed, but not suffocated. Puzzled, but not utterly baffled. Pursued, but not caught or outrun. Struck down, but not out of the fight). The the dust settles, you will still be standing tall!

When you read and understand *Romans 8:28, (And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose)*, then and only then, will your question be fully answered.

The word doesn't say “all things are good”, but it does say, when everything is put into “God's Super Blender”, it will come out to your good! All things must be “worked together”. I agree with the person whom made the statement, “Tough times never last, but tough people do!” Sometimes you have to get tough and dig in for the long haul!

Chapter 5

Prayer

Prayer probably ranks very close to priority number one in our Christian experience. In prayer, we communicate with our Heavenly Father. There are numerous scriptures that command our prayers. Rather than share those passages, I want to emphasize again and again the impact prayer has on anyone who desires to grow and to walk in victory with Jesus Christ. We need not only to take it to the Lord, but we must also learn to listen to the voice of God. Through prayer, we exalt, repent, thank, praise and seek His will in our life. One way to get His answer is to **take time in prayer to listen to Him**. As you grow in the Lord, you will better understand the full meaning of what you have just read.

One man said, “It is hard to sin and pray at the same time.” Select a time to pray. If possible, early in the day is a good time — before you are faced with the challenges of that day. Ask for help in dealing with whatever you may encounter at school, work, in your business affairs, visiting with friends or whatever. Ask God for ways to be a witness for Him and to bring glory to His name. Pray for your family, friends, church, teachers, and pastor. As you pray for them, you will be planting seeds for your harvest.

Galatians 6:7 For whatever a man sows, that will he also reap. If you sow prayer seeds, you will reap prayer from others — oftentimes from people to whom the Lord will direct to pray for you.

Chapter 6

Bible Reading and Bible Study

Reading the word of God is to the soul what solid food and liquid is to the physical body. You cannot survive very long without eating and drinking the word of God. The Bible gives instructions for living morally, physically, and spiritually. The Bible has the recipe for happiness, wisdom, health, and wealth. The word of God produces faith and understanding, and it teaches us how to lean on the Lord in good times and when things are not going so well.

Many Christians are failing because they have not taken time to receive the word into their hearts and lives. When you know the word of God, you will not be easily swayed by every sight and sound that may come your way. The word of God will enhance your vision, build your confidence, and equip you to better share what God can do for others.

Lest I forget, the Bible contains your “Healing Benefits Package”, “Holy Ghost Baptism Package”, “Assisted Living Package”, “Wardrobe Package”, along with the “Best Retirement Plan” that money cannot buy!

These are a few of many ways to feed from God’s word:

1. *Set a regular time to read and study.* There are some exceptional devotional books on the market; however, they do not replace Bible reading. If you have problems understanding the words in the King James Version, contact the church office to discuss this issue. It is important to be able to understand what you read.
2. *Become hungry for the word of God.* In Wednesday night FUEL classes, elective classes and/or small groups, much can be gleaned by asking questions and sharing real life situations.
3. We encourage you to attend one of our Sunday services at a Christpoint campus nearest you.
4. Take notes from Pastor’s sermons. Expand on the subject during home study and reading.
5. Sign up for a Point Forward session for direction with your next steps. Point Forward will assist you in your own personal journey with Jesus Christ as well as well as where you fit in here at Christpoint Church.

The study of the Word will fortify your walk with God.

Chapter 7

Getting Involved

No person is an island to himself. We need other people in our life. Everyone wants to feel wanted, needed, and appreciated as they make contributions to the lives of others. In our spiritual walk, we need to get involved with others of like faith. Your church, Christpoint, offers so many avenues to make sure you have a place to become involved.

Beginning Point, ages 0-5 years, is a great place for you parents to get your very young children involved. Boys and girls (1st - 5th grade) will find great enjoyment in Kidspoint. SWAG, Saved With Amazing Grace, brings all the middle school kids together for an exciting, fun time learning about Jesus Christ. And our high school youth gather at the Student/Connection Center (240 Building) to fellowship and grow in their walk with Jesus Christ. Every age group has ministries open to you.

Ladies' and Mens' ministries provide opportunity to share in fellowship, fund raising projects, and benevolence ministries. Other possible ministries include Media Team, Safety Team, Greeters Team, and many many more. As you can see, there are several opportunities for involvement. Point Forward is your first step to dig deeper into the vision of Christpoint Church and all the areas of ministries that are available.

Do not stand back and begin to feel unattached! Be friendly! The person you speak with may be a first timer, and they need to know you care about them.

Church is probably the most important element in the life of individuals and Christian families. The church is where you are taught God's word. Most conversions take place in church. The church is where water baptisms take place, where weddings take place, where children are dedicated to the Lord, where people support one another in good times and difficult times. The church provides ministers/pastors to care for your soul and to assist in funerals for loved ones, and the list goes on and on.

We strongly urge local church commitment. You need to feel responsible to the Kingdom of God in your faithful attendance as well as your tithe (blessed privilege) and other financial support. The way your local church continues to be able to minister at home and around the world is for people just like you to become a supporter. Sure, you were born into the Body of Christ by the Spirit when you were born again, but there is also the need for the local assembly we call the church. (It is mentioned 114 times in New Testament and means "company brought together").

Christ purchased the church with His blood, He is the Head of your church and He directed the church. *Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourself, and to all the flock, over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood.*

I have noticed one of the very things that Satan will use to get one to backslide is to get them to either become unfaithful or quit attending church services altogether. It happens to families. One will drift away from God and then they will drift away from His body, the church. Soon the wear and tear of the devil will begin to discourage another until an entire family loses out with God!

PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN TO YOU!

Do not allow Satan to plant seeds of bitterness, jealousy, envy, strife, or the spirit of failure to cause you to lose your soul. The Apostle Paul says, *“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another”...Hebrews 10:25*

Your church provides the benefits of:

- 1.Christian Fellowship
- 2.Corporate Worship
- 3.Support and Encouragement

Closing Thoughts

“It doesn’t matter what platform you started with, it only matters what platform you’re standing on now...”

-Pastor Steve



**WRITTEN BY
REV. JERRY BARNWELL**